

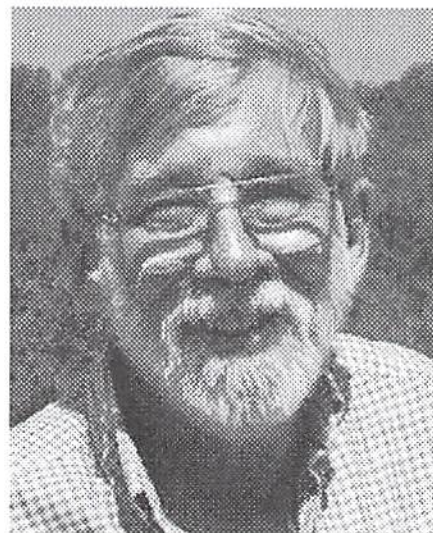
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The Newsletter of Literacy BC

Peter Gzowski: 1934 - 2002

On January 25th hundreds of people gathered at the Breakfast of Champions at the Vancouver Public Library for the launch of Family Literacy Day/Week 2002. It was a time for us to celebrate families, literacy and lifelong learning - and to mourn the loss of a great Canadian, Peter Gzowski. It was also a great opportunity to celebrate the memory of Peter's life, his tremendous and lasting contribution to this country, our culture and the literacy cause.

No other Canadian public figure has dedicated himself to literacy as he did. In 1986, he made a personal pledge to raise \$1 million in his lifetime through the PGI Golf Tournaments to benefit literacy organizations. The PGIs have



...continued on page two

National News ...

Skills and Learning discussion paper released - What you need to know

On February 12, 2002, almost one year since the federal government first announced its **National Agenda on Skills and Learning** in the 2001 Throne Speech, Human Resources Development Canada released **Knowledge Matters**, a discussion (Green) paper on skills and learning that could re-shape the way the federal government works independently, and with the provinces and territories, to define, fund, and set policy for literacy in Canada.

The February issue of the Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) **Federal Literacy Facts** provides an analysis of the paper with emphasis on the implications for literacy. We urge you to read this at www.literacy.ca

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Peter Gzowski (continued)

become the single most successful fundraising vehicle for literacy in Canada — to date they have raised over \$6.5 million.

In Peter's own words, "The PGIs bring together so much that matters to me: friends, laughter, poetry, music — all playing to make a better world. Thanks to the thousands of golfers, corporate sponsors and hardworking volunteers, the PGIs have become a network that stretches from sea to sea to, as I am proud to say, sea. We've raised millions of dollars to help people learn to read and write or just make their lives a little better. And we're going to keep on doing it."

And we will!

He will be deeply missed.

Literacy BC Board member Ellen Szita has written this tribute to Peter:

I mourn the loss of a friend

I met Peter Gzowski at the first Victoria Golf Tournament (PGI). I was a learner then and I was asked to speak by Linda Mitchell, Literacy BC's Executive Director. It was the first time I had ever spoken in front of an audience and I was very afraid. I can still hear Peter's voice encouraging me to speak and saying I would do fine. When I'd finished, he praised me. I met Peter many times after that. He also introduced me to Robert Duncan who was the director of "Ellen's Story."

Peter, along with Linda and myself had many a laugh. One time he even remembered my birthday. He bought me a journal and wrote encouraging words inside. I introduced Peter to people at the Royal Bank in Victoria as a "cuddly teddy bear" because that's how I saw him and will always remember him.

Peter could talk to anyone and make them feel comfortable and on their own ground. I thought of Peter as a great friend to all Canadians, especially adult learners, and I mourn his loss deeply.

Skills and Learning Discussion Paper

The Green Paper on Skills and Learning – Promise and Disappointment by Paul Gallagher

For people concerned about literacy issues, the HRDC *Green Paper, Knowledge Matters* is particularly worth reading.

Knowledge Matters has many positive things to propose. But it is also disappointing.

First, here are some promising features. *Knowledge Matters* defines the problem well — that we are now part of a knowledge rather

than industrial society, and that we have a looming skill shortage that will thwart our efforts to build a prosperous economy if we do not take prompt action.

This *Green Paper* also places emphasis on the importance of addressing the unique learning needs and potential of the very young, Aboriginal peoples, and people in the workforce. In

addition, it rightly highlights the fact that immigration policy will have to change to encourage the recognition of credentials of as many skilled newcomers as possible. As well, *Knowledge Matters* calls for further consultation on specific policy directions and priorities for the federal government.

...continued on page three

The Green Paper (continued)

Despite these and other positive features, the *Green Paper* is also distressing.

What's wrong with *Knowledge Matters*? It offers an old solution to a new problem. It proposes that a key strategy is to 'strengthen' our education system so that it might adapt to the new realities of a knowledge-based society and a looming skill shortage. This report often uses the language of innovation but proposes a course of action that looks back rather than ahead.

Why would *strengthening* our education system be wrong? Because it would reinforce our current *education* system and prevent Canada from developing real *learning* systems. *Strengthening* inevitably leads to 'more of the same' and that is exactly what we do not need. One result would be that literacy issues would remain on the fringe of public policy and receive no more serious attention than they have in the recent past.

Canadians have, and have had, an *education* system that has rightly placed high value on industrial-style, formal, structured, institution-based education and training. But it has also brushed aside all other ways of "learning" (informal learning, community-based learning, self-teaching, less structured adult learning, etc.) as insignificant.

Operating in this way, many

Canadians have had access to some of the best education in the world but others have been excluded or gone unrecognized.

The country as a whole has not suffered significantly by this exclusionary approach. We have had, or have been able to attract, enough qualified people to drive the traditional economy. We have had enough people willing to serve as active citizens. We have had welfare systems to support our least advantaged.

However, in a knowledge society (where industrial and agricultural components play a more limited role), all citizens need to learn at periods throughout their lives. Everyone needs the opportunity to contribute to our common economic future, all of us need to have enough learning to be able to act as informed citizens, and all of us need to learn for personal objectives. *Learning* needs to be lifelong and life-wide in a knowledge society. There is no longer any reason to talk about *completing* our education.

So, the really innovative strategy would be one that encourages the development of a more comprehensive learning system that would be more inclusive and diversified than the education system that is so familiar to us. In a real *learning* system, all modes of learning would be valued and recognized appropriately.

This does not mean abandoning

our well-established and highly regarded universities, colleges, or schools. Rather, our educational institutions should be provided incentives to accommodate new needs. Our educational institutions need to re-model themselves, and non-institutional learning modes need to play more legitimate and respected roles in our *learning* system.

As an example, in our *education* system, there is very little recognition of community-based learning; in a *learning* system, community-based learning would have comparable status to that accorded to institution-based learning. For the same reasons, non-bureaucratic Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition methods and mechanisms to set Standards of Certification in many fields should be integral parts of our learning system.

In a Canada with a real *learning* system as sketched above, there would be a legitimate place for what we now call "literacy learning" for all citizens and in various forms – family, community, workforce, ABE, the professions, apprenticeships, among others. Literacy would be a normal part of learning for all citizens, not just a set of special programs for "the disadvantaged".

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Canada Post Seeks Nominees

Do you know of an individual, educator, organization or business who has made a personal effort or an important contribution to literacy in your community?

The **2002 Canada Post Literacy Awards Call for Nominations** opened on March 27.

Nominations will be accepted between March 27 and May 31, 2002. Now celebrating their 10th anniversary, these are the only national awards dedicated to recognizing grass roots literacy

The Green Paper (continued)

Even the terminology we use today needs to change. *Literacy* should no longer be seen as a category or kind of learning. All learning needs to be thought of as forms of literacy and all Canadians need to have the opportunity to become more literate throughout life. Even the term *literacy* as the label for the work of organizations such as Literacy BC or the Movement for Canadian Literacy may no longer be appropriate.

Paul Gallagher was the Literacy BC Board President from 1998-2000. He has served as President of both Capilano and Vancouver Community Colleges. He currently operates Gallagher and Associates, which provides brokered educational consulting and training services to the public and private sectors.

initiatives and celebrating achievements of learners.

The annual competition recognizes up to 45 individuals and organizations for their exceptional work in one of four categories: **Individual Achievement, Educator, Community Leadership and Business Leadership.**

The **Individual Achievement Awards** celebrate the accomplishments of learners who have successfully overcome social or economic barriers by improving their literacy skills.

The **Educator Awards** honour English and French-speaking educators, tutors and advocates who have demonstrated a commitment to literacy. Up to five awards may be presented in this category.

The **Community Leadership Awards** honour non-profit, volunteer and labour organizations that have demonstrated long-term



achievement, innovation, leadership and organizational excellence in furthering literacy.

The **Business Leadership Award** honours a single business organization that has demonstrated its commitment by establishing or supporting literacy programs in the workplace or in the community.

To submit a nomination visit the **Literacy Awards Web site** at www.canadapost.ca or call us at 1-800-663-1293 and we will send you the forms.

The deadline for nominations for the **2002 Canada Post Literacy Awards** is **May 31, 2002**. Winners will be announced in the final week of August, and the provincial/territorial ceremonies will be held throughout September and October.

www.literacy.bc.ca!

We have a new domain name — now you can find us on the web at www.literacy.bc.ca. The new site is currently under development. Our full site is still at www.nald.ca/lbc

Thanks to MCL, for sharing the literacy.ca domain with us!

Email us at info@literacy.bc.ca



News from Literacy BC...

Spring Training Events

Regional Literacy Coordinators are holding spring training events from April through June, to support regional literacy activities and initiatives. This is the second phase of the Practitioner Training Project funded by the National Literacy Secretariat and the Ministry of Advanced Education. The events are coordinated through the Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology.

Some of the planned events are listed below. Contact the Coordinators for details on events in other regions.

East Kootenay /College of the Rockies

Leona Gadsby (250) 342-3210

- May 10th, College of the Rockies, Cranbrook
Introductory workshop on "The Structure of Intellect"
- April 26th and 27th, Creston.
Meeting and training for literacy tutors

Malaspina/ North Island

Judy Brooks (250) 338-9906

- June (date to be announced)
"Never Fail Writing Method" workshop by Malaspina University-College instructor Kate Nonesuch - open to tutor program coordinators, volunteer tutors & ABE educators from the region

Fraser Valley

**Julia Dodge (604) 504-7441
local 4776**

- May 10, Literacy Partnerships:
Strategies for the Fraser Valley
A broad representation of literacy stakeholders, including learners, practitioners, administrators, and representatives from corrections, health, and mental health agencies, will discuss the region's needs, issues and goals
Registration deadline - May 1.

Okanagan

**Nancy Noble-Hearle
(250) 492-4305**

- June (date to be announced)
two half day sessions with Kate Nonesuch: How to Run a Learner Centred Learning Centre
Jennifer Cliff-Marks and Leona Gadsby: Building literacy Communities from the Ground Up.

For other events, contact:

**Selkirk. Jennifer Cliff-Marks at
(250) 265-4193**

**New Caledonia. Tina Pearson
at (250) 563-9251 Local 147**

**Northern Lights. Marissa Thola
at (250) 788-9935**

**Cariboo. Shelly Joyner at
(250) 396-7747**

Mark your calendars for

Strengthening Adult Learners and Community through ABE

**Adult Basic Education Association of BC
Conference & AGM**

May 22 - 24, 2002

College of New Caledonia,
Prince George

Share instructional techniques, programs and philosophies about ABE.

For information, contact:
Lynn Pakenham (ABE rep)
School District 57

Phone (250) 564-6574.

Portraits of Literacy: Critical Issues in Family, Community, and School Literacies

July 8 - 10, 2002

Department of Language and Literacy Education, UBC

This conference will bring together practitioners, researchers, graduate students, and members of the larger community to discuss current issues, theories, research and experiences in relation to family, community, and school literacy. Participants must register by **June 1st, 2002.**

Contact Fatima Pirbhai-Illich at:

literacy@interchange.ubc.ca

The Co-operators 2002 Provincial Learner Achievement Award

The search for a well-deserving individual is on again as The Co-operators, a national insurance company, proudly sponsors the **2002 Provincial Learner Achievement Award**. This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in B.C.

The \$200 award will be presented at the 2002 Literacy BC Annual General Meeting in the fall. The winner will be announced at the PGI golf tournament in July.

To qualify for **The Co-operators' Learner Achievement Award**, you must

- have attended a literacy/ABE program for at least six months, and preferably one year
- have an excellent attendance record
- obtain a recommendation from a teacher or tutor
- have shown exceptional progress in your studies

The deadline for applications is June 1, 2002.

Call Literacy BC 1-800-663-1293 and we will send you the application forms

or download them from our website, www.literacy.bc.ca

The winner will be chosen by a committee of adult learners.



PACE Bursary Awards

Thanks to the Pacific Association for Continuing Education (PACE), Literacy BC was pleased to award 49 PACE Bursaries in December, 2001 to adult part time students who demonstrated financial need. The 49 awards ranged from \$75 to \$370 for a total of \$11,402.

PACE Bursary 2001 Awards

Camosun College	\$ 960
Douglas College	\$ 370
Burnaby School District	\$1277
BCIT	\$2440
Justice Institute	\$2970
Okanagan University College	\$ 370
Malaspina University- College	\$ 110
Maple Ridge S.D. (Douglas)	\$ 220
College of New Caledonia	\$ 195
UBC	\$ 75
University College of the Cariboo	\$ 850
Vancouver Community College (VCC)	\$ 790
Open Learning Agency	\$ 740

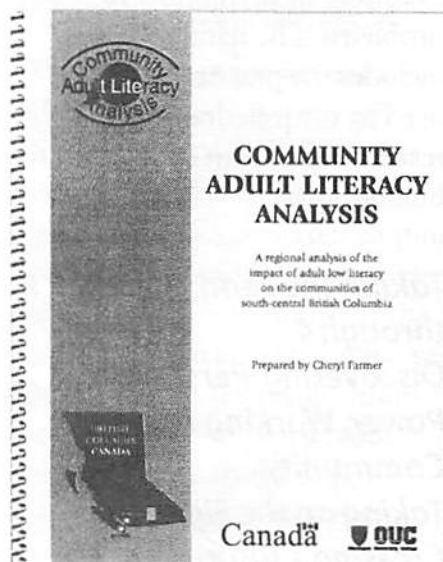
The 2002 PACE Bursary forms are available at the awards office of most educational institutions and can be downloaded from the Literacy BC website: www.literacy.bc.ca

If you wish to have an application mailed to you, please call Literacy BC and we will send one out to you. **The next application deadline is September 30, 2002.**

Eligible applicants are adults, 19 years or older, who attend a continuing education or undergraduate program less than 18 hours per week, are registered in fewer than three courses and can demonstrate financial need. Students are required to submit official receipts for course fees and books in order to qualify.

Community Adult Literacy Analysis.

A regional analysis of the impact of low literacy on the communities of south-central British Columbia. Cheryl Farmer, Okanagan University College. B.C. literacy cost-shared project.



For this study, 400 people involved in literacy in 17 southern BC communities were interviewed individually and in focus groups. Learners, adults with low literacy, literacy service providers, community agencies and employers all had input into this snapshot of literacy and literacy awareness in the region. Some findings:

- Agencies and employers are often "remarkably uninformed" about literacy services or programs in their community
- Literacy service providers feel overwhelmed and under-resourced
- Employers are reluctant to hire or promote adults with low-literacy and prefer focused upgrading specific to the workplace

Among the report's general recommendations are:

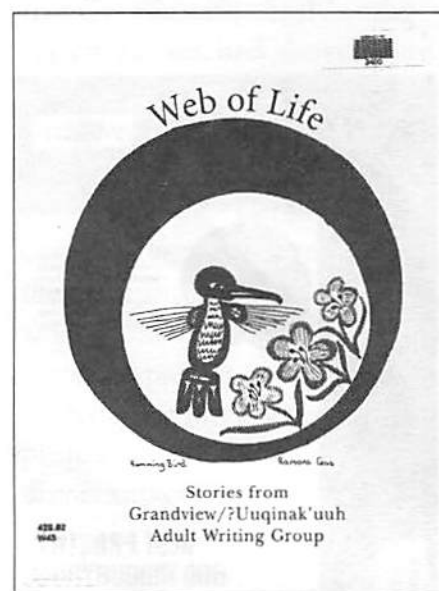
- Adults with low literacy have multiple barriers and are easily discouraged. Ensure they are made to feel welcome. Programs and services need to reach out to learners and offer a welcome environment.
- More resources are needed for learning disability assessment ... and educators must be supported to keep up-to-date on curriculum and classroom techniques for teaching adults with LD
- Families need to know how to access adult and family literacy services

The report is augmented by tables and graphs and an annotated bibliography

Web of Life: Stories from Grandview/?Uuqinak'uuh Adult Writing Group.

Sally Gellard and Rene Merkel, Basic Education, Vancouver Community College. B.C. literacy cost-shared project.

Neighbourhood adults who took part in a writing group at this East Vancouver elementary school produced these life stories and experiences based on the theme of "gardens we have known in our pasts and in our imaginations." Their tales, set in B.C., the prairies, Newfoundland, and England are intended "to contribute to the growing spirit of revitalization in the community."



Look what's New

Resources

Resources

on our shelves...

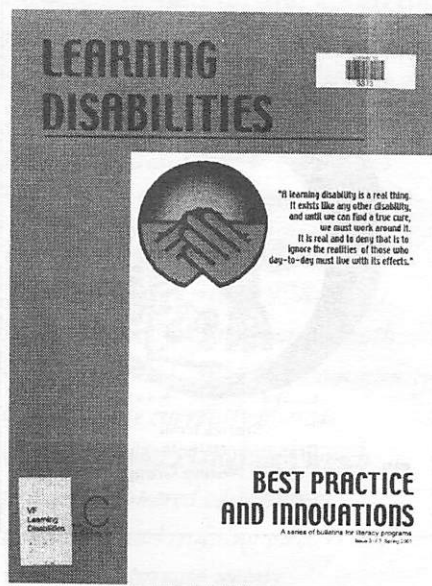
More like a Camp-Out.

Monica Dick. The Reading and Writing Centre. Malaspina University-College, Cowichan Campus. 2002.

A photo-story about a hike that turns into a near-disaster, this short tale relates the student's true-life experience of being lost in the woods on B.C.'s Valdes Island.

Best Practice and Innovations: A Series of Bulletins for Literacy Programs.

Numeracy (issue. 1) Transitions (issue 2) Learning Disabilities (issue 3). Ontario Literacy Coalition, NLS. 2001.



These three topics of high priority to the literacy community were identified through interviews with practitioners, administrators and consultants in Ontario.

Each booklet is designed with effective use of white space, type and graphics to define, illustrate and give examples of each topic. For example, "Read," "Watch" and "Click" text boxes throughout *Learning Disabilities* lead the reader to suggested resources, videos and websites about LD. In *Transitions*, which looks at innovative programs to help learners make the leap to employment, training or further education, "FYI" and "Click!" text boxes offer multiple tips on where and how to find information.

Action Research in Workplace Education. Handbook for Literacy Instructors.

Maurice Taylor, Partnerships in Learning. January 2002.

Action, or practice-based, research is a form of applied research that helps change practices in teaching and learning.

Eight workplace literacy instructors across the country

were selected to train in action research methodology, then conduct case studies within their programs on topics that ranged from increasing learner motivation to adapting teaching styles and use of the Internet. The case study write-ups here illustrate how action research works and provide good examples of common workplace problems. The handbook also includes the practical exercises used by the practitioner-researchers and an annotated bibliography.

Taking the Lead: Volumes 1 through 4.

Discovering Personal Power, Working for Community, Taking on the Fight, and Crossing Cultures.

An adult basic education project of the Writer's Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador. NLS, 2001.

In a series of four books, this collection of essays and personal portraits show that positive change can be brought about by ordinary people — that we all have to "take the lead." In these essays, readers will meet an aboriginal lawyer, an anti-poverty crusader, a holocaust

Look what's New

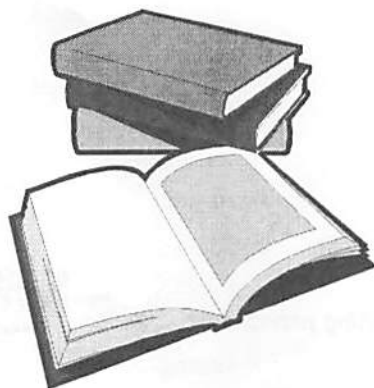
Resources on our shelves...

survivor, a gay rights activist, and many others with extraordinary stories to tell. The series was prepared to help adult learners improve their literacy skills and also has general appeal. The booklets are illustrated with black and white photos and drawings, and include questions and exercises.

Exploring Our Homeland: Social Studies.

Port Hope Simpson and Charlottetown Adult Learning Centres in partnership with Literacy Outreach. 2000.

Eight chapters illustrated with maps, drawings and extensive space for written answers introduce students to the rich history, geography, culture and politics of Newfoundland and Labrador in this workbook-style resource.



1. ***Legends & Ghost Stories from Bonavista South***
2. ***King's Cove Head. The light tower - a way of life***
3. ***The Changing Role of Women in the Newfoundland Fishery***
4. ***Newfoundland Fishery and Government: the 1930s collapse.***

by Linda Hayley Bath, Bonavista South Regional Development Association. 2000.

Four booklets for new adult learners written by a former learner, now an adult educator and publisher. Of, *Legends & Ghost Stories*, one ABE instructor wrote, "The legends in this collection appeal to readers of all levels. My students found it very enjoyable. A good read for all!"



The Spring 2002 issue of the LMB is out. This twenty-fifth issue contains reviews of three non-fiction and four fiction titles, one student self-help guide, one professional resource book, and two videos.

If you want to have a look at these titles ...

Literacy BC acquires all titles reviewed in the *LMB* and makes them available for loan. There are two ways to borrow from the *Literacy Materials Bulletin* Collection:

- ☐ Individual items reviewed in the Bulletin are available on loan from the Literacy BC Resource Centre for five weeks.
- ☐ Entire sets of materials reviewed in Issue 24 and 25 are also available for five-week loans through the **Bulletin Book Bag** program.

Call May Chan at Literacy BC: MChan@literacy.bc.ca

- Supporting Learners
- Providing Consultation, Referral, and Resources
- Raising Public Awareness
- Coordinating Regional Literacy Networks
- Providing Training and Professional Development
- Influencing Public Policy
- Building Partnerships

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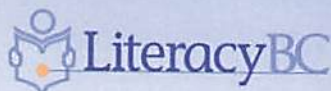
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We are supported by the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education; the National Literacy Secretariat,
Human Resources Development Canada; memberships and donations. Donations to Literacy BC are tax deductible.
Federal Charities Number: 12846-0334-RR0001